THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of the news item.

(b) The government is taking appropriate action in this regard. The Directorate of Public Relations in the Minisrty of Defence has issued a press note on 4 Oct 88 characterising the story as completely false and politically motivated. Our missions abroad have constantly stressed the entirely peaceful nature of our nuclear programme.

Consanguine marriages effecting foetal growth

3101. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that consanguine family marriages have a bad effect on foetal growth and development of the child; and

(b) if so, what are the measures proposed by Government to prevent this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Studies conducted suggest that the consanguinous family marriages have in some cases bad effect on the developmnt of the foetus and cause mental retardations. There is no programme at present to publicise bad effects of such marriages.

Death of people due to Tobacco Consumption

3102. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in India nearly one million people die of tobacco consumption every year; and

(b) if so, what are the measures proposed by Government to reduce tobacco consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) It is estimated that about 6 to 10 lakh people die due to tobacco related diseases every year in India.

(b) The measures undertaken to reduce the consumption of tobacco products are as under:—

(1) Health education to the masses against the usage of tobacco products highlighting its evil effects on health like cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, oral and lung cancer etc.

(2) Printing of statutary warning on cigarette packets, hoardings etc.

(3) Ban of advertisement of cigarette and tobacco products on mass media, sports stadia etc.

(4) Ban on smoking in public places meetings, seminars, etc.

IAS Secretaries

3103. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of IAS officers in the rank of Secretaries from various States including Gujarat;

(b) the total number of IAS recruited during the last three years; and

(c) the number and percentage of women appointed in the IAS cadre, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) 61 including one officer from Gujarat;

(b) 1985-137
1986-125
1987-114

(c) Given in the statement.